

13th King

installed

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Sultan of Terengganu, Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, 45, was yesterday installed as the 13th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, calling on the people to maintain unity through understanding, respect and tolerance.

He said this nation's racial, religious and cultural diversity was not an obstacle but a unique feature to enhance the country's strength and prosperity.

"I admit it's not easy for a multi-racial population to live in peace and harmony. Look around us, not many are successful, more have failed.

"We must maintain this precious unity to the best we can, co-existing requires us to understand, respect and be tolerant with each other," he said.

He said every Malaysian citizen had the rights as enshrined in the Federal Constitution and hence, they should be given fair and equal opportunities.

The installation ceremony, held at Balai Rong Seri of Istana Negara, was steeped in custom and tradition of the Malay rulers (*report and pictures Page 2*).

It was attended by the Malay Rulers, Yang di-Pertua Negri, cabinet ministers, foreign diplomats and invited guests.

Tuanku Mizan said the country's

development and administration success was the fruit of the people's solidarity that must be preserved and maintained.

He also called for Malaysia's progress and prosperity to be moulded alongside the country's culture and tradition and balanced with advancement in knowledge because progress did not mean neglecting the value of knowledge, people's cultures and traditions and national language.

His Majesty said no country could taste progress and record achievements by relying merely on government initiatives without the people's support.

"As Malaysians, we must be knowledgeable, cultured and have noble values, loyal and faithful in our obligations to the King and country," he said.

HE also said the people and country must be proud for having enjoyed remarkable progress over the last 50 years.

"As a country considered young, Malaysians have gone far in proving their capabilities in governing the nation.

"If we look around, many countries that gained independence earlier than us are still lagging behind in various aspects.

However, this is not an excuse to be boastful because the fact is our journey is still long," His Majesty said. — Bernama